

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 EA-10 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/100 W

-----034188 200047Z /63

R 181300Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 747

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, DM, NL

SUBJ: DUTCH AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON BENIN-NETHERLANDS RELATIONS

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL MAY 18 NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR VAN AGT, RESIDENT IN ABIDJAN, NOTED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BENIN AND NETHERLANDS HAD IMPROVED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE DUTCH FEEL THAT BENIN IS MAKING A GENUINE EFFORT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF HELPING THE RURAL POOR. THE NETHERLANDS HAS SIGNED A TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE SIX MILLION CFA (APPROXIMATELY TWO-AND-ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS) ANNUALLY FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE.

2. AMBASSADOR VAN AGT SAID ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE REASONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONSHIP WAS BENIN'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN CONTROLLING THE SOUTH MOUCCANS. SINCE BENIN IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES THAT HAS RESIDENT SOUTH MOUCCAN REPRESENTATIVES, IT IS IN A POSITION TO EXERCISE A MODERATING INFLUENCE. THUS IT IS TO THE NETHERLANDS' ADVANTAGE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT ASSISTANCE TO KEEP BENIN CONVINCED OF GENUINE DUTCH

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INTEREST IN THE COUNTRY.

3. VAN AGT SAID HE WAS IN COTONOU TO ACCOMPANY THE DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS FROM THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF COOPERATION WHO WILL BE ARRIVING IN COTONOU MAY 18. DURING BENIN FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE IN OCTOBER 1977, HE INVITED THE DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO COME TO

COTONOU. THE DUTCH FELT THAT SUCH HIGH-LEVEL VISIT WAS UNWARRANTED AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ARE KEEPING CONTRACTS TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL LEVEL. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE LEADER OF THE SOUTH MOLUCCAN SIWALIMA LIBERATION FRONT, "GENERAL" TAMAELA, IS A FORMER SARGEANT PAY MASTER IN THE DUTCH COLONIAL SERVICE. IRONICALLY THE COOPERATION MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE VISITING BENIN HAD IN EARLIER DAYS RECEIVED HIS PAY CHECK FROM SGT. TAMAELA. THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM IS LONG. THOMPSON

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